second largest in the world in terms of fertilizers consumption cannot be dependent on foreign supplies for our agriculture, if at all foreign supplies of those dimensions are available. That is number one. Number two, the Government is also thinking that when we support indigenous industries, we must see that indigenous industries run efficiently. Therefore, incentive for efficiency and disincentive for inefficiency must be the rule.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Sir, there is time to get a correct reply from the hon. Minister. The whole problem is that this phosphate industry is bound to be closed down. It may be working today. But in course of time it is bound to be closed down because of the two policy decisions taken by the Government. One is, decontrol of phosphate industry and the second is decanalisation of import of DAP and other phosphate fertilizers. The Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer made a number of recommendations to strengthen the indigenous industries. I would like to know from the Government whether they are going to renew this policy of decontrol and decanalisation of phosphate fertilizer because then only the indigenous industry will survive. These are all *ad hoc* measures. They will not in any way help in the survival of the indigenous industries. I would like to have a specific answer from the hon. Minister.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Sir, the hon. Member speaks about decontrol, decanalisation and also about the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Fertilizer. The fact is that it was the JPC who recommended decontrol.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: What about other recommendations?

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: They are already there.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: The JPC made number of recommendations. They have taken up only one ... [*Interruptions*] ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister reply ... [*Interruptions*] ...

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: We have not taken up only one. We have taken up several of them. Many recommendations were there. We have also reduced the price of Urea and Nitrogen based fertilizers by 10 per cent. We have done it. Customs duty on import of Phosphoric acid is reduced. We have done it and so on and so forth. We have implemented several others and that is the position I should say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Project in the Areas of Robotics

*227. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the projects in the areas of robotics, surface mounted technology, transputer based instrumentation etc. which are being undertaken under the Indo-EC Co-operation;

(b) what is the stage at which these projects lie;

(c) what is the total outlay of these projects; and

(d) what is the nature of Indo-EC Co-operation in these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (d) Areas of co-operation identified in the Indo-EEC Memorandum of Technical Co-operation, signed in October 1990, include robotics, Surface Mount Technology and Transputer based instrumentation project. Specific project proposals in each of these areas have been posed for assistance in European Community and are under their consideration.

As an interim measure of co-operation in the areas of robotics and transputer, European Economic Community (EEC) has been providing assistance in the form of training and consultancy for the Indian projects. In the area of Surface Mount Technology, the consultants appointed by the EEC have submitted the feasibility study for a project which is being evaluated.